

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,748,277 to Huang et al ("Huang") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,385 B1 to Nomura et al ("Nomura").

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 16 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 7 and 22 were cancelled and new claims 31 and 32 have been added. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine the reference teachings and the combination must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Nomura, is respectfully traversed because there is no suggestion or motivation for the combination.

An LCD of the present invention displays images by selectively driving a cholesteric liquid crystal to either a planar phase or a focal-conic phase. Huang teaches a three stage method of driving a chiral nematic liquid crystal display that uses these cholesteric phases. However, Nomura appears to teach a method of driving a liquid crystal that operates by changing the liquid crystal tilt angle. For example, the liquid crystal changes between a state wherein the tilt angle is 0° and a state wherein the tilt angle is 360°. See Fig. 4, and column 10 line 50 to column 11, line 9. That is, the Nomura LCD does not use the cholesteric phases.

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If a proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious. MPEP 2143.01. Here, the Huang and Nomura references teach different types of liquid crystal displays that operate using different driving principles. Combining the reference teaching would thus require changing their principles of operation. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that there can be no suggestion to combine the references. To combine the references as suggested in the Office Action is improper.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Nomura, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

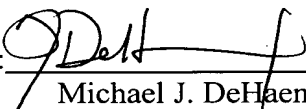
This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 2 from 4 to 6 and increases the total number of claims by 2 from 30 to 32, but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$208.00 to be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260 is enclosed herewith in duplicate. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

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If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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